

ACORN

The Journal of The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario

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Winter



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WINTER 1991

The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario Inc.
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Telephone (416) 367-8075

A society incorporated in 1933 for the preservation of the best examples of the architecture of the province, and for the protection of its places of natural beauty.



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President's Report

BARNUM HOUSE

At the opening ceremonies of the celebrated Barnum House in Grafton, the virtual symbol of the ACO, the following remark was overheard: "of course, nobody likes the addition ..."

One critic on council has likened it to "the tail wagging the dog". ACO members can judge for themselves the merits - or demerits - of the alteration to this unique landmark structure.

Major criticisms have been aimed against the height of the addition; although an attached carriage house occupied the site of the addition, its height was much less than that of the current addition. The blocked-in side verandah (which reportedly was once arcaded); the "French windows" divided in the 20th century manner; the bizarre shed dormers; and the batten seam roof, - have all drawn criticism.

Yes, it is true, the addition matches the original in terms of colour, materials, and roof pitch, though it misses the mark with regard to massing and detail.

A number of questions need to be answered: (1) why was such an out-of-proportion addition allowed to disfigure the harmony of Barnum House? (2) why does a modern addition have to mimic the original; and in this case why some details and not others? (3) why was the ACO not consulted during the design process? It was the intent of the original agreement between the Province of Ontario and the Architectural Conservancy that the ACO would be consulted prior to carrying out any alterations to the building.

It is difficult to get straight answers to any of these questions. Perhaps, as one Toronto Branch member has suggested, the ACO should eliminate the Barnum House from our logo.

And perhaps we can all learn from this example what not to do to a heritage building.

Gilles Miramontes



Barnum House addition from the rear and east side.

Gilles Miramontes

Editorial

A new year has just begun and the Christmas Season is over. We hope you and your friends and loved ones had a very happy holiday.

In many respects 1991 was somewhat bleak. Certainly the economy was not very healthy, and for some facing a future of unemployment is worrisome.

Hopefully 1992 will be an improvement. With this in mind we prepared the following wish list:

*That the Camden East House sells
That a New Ontario Heritage Act becomes law*

*That some corporations and individuals contribute to the dwindling funds of ACO
That developers be more respectful of subdivision designs so that older buildings might be incorporated in the plans*

*That modern house designers stop designing "Gothic", "Victorian" and other older architectural styles with glaring modified features, such as windows, dormers and door cases that jar you back to 1992 reality.
That the economy improves so that sufficient funds might be allotted to the preservation of older buildings*

That enough volunteers can be found to help with the many tasks at house museums and display museums

That our places of natural beauty get the protection they deserve

That a large number of ACO members attend the Annual Meeting in April in Brantford which will be preceded by a major conference on Vernacular Architecture

That you and your family have a happy, prosperous and healthy new year.



Barnum House, and addition on opening day.

Gilles Miramontes



Barnum House west side showing addition.

Gilles Miramontes

Letters to the Editor

I always read ACORN with great interest, and enjoy the beautiful pictures. However, I am sadly disappointed with the current format (since Spring/Summer 1990) because of the wide margins. They're not very attractive and are bound to be a waste of money, besides a waste of material.

In these days of diminishing funds, and diminishing natural resources, the blank spaces in ACORN seem totally inappropriate.

Jacqueline Garsonnin,
Toronto

Editor's Note:

You will notice the change in format in this issue.

Council News

AGM PLANNING GUIDELINES

Our Past-President, Roy Turner, has prepared a set of planning guidelines covering topics such as venue, publicity, registration, scheduling of events, bed & breakfasts, finances, and follow-up, as well as the Annual General Meeting itself. Copies will be mailed to all branches, with a master copy kept in a three-ring binder at the office.

COUNCIL COMMITTEES

In order to keep the number of Council meetings to a manageable number, Council has set up a series of committees to conduct the month to month business of the organization. We would like to see the branches as well represented as possible on these working committees. Anyone interested in Publications, Publicity and Membership, Fund Raising, Heritage Fund, Programme Development, or the Advisory Board, please get in touch through your branch or call Ann Hughson at 416-367-8075.

MINISTER'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HERITAGE LEGISLATION

Our representative on this very influential committee is Toronto Branch president Alec Keefer, sitting as a member of the Ontario Heritage Alliance. Alec has been keeping Council well informed with monthly reports on the Advisory Committee's progress through the 62 points of the working paper, *Towards a New Ontario Heritage Act*. Alec supplied a copy of the working paper to each branch, and branches and individuals are

encouraged to send their comments to him, care of the ACO office.

CHANGES

Rob Roberti, CA, of Ernst & Young has replaced Brad Hardie as ACO Treasurer. Brad has been posted to London, England for two years. John Boulden has resigned his position as Third Vice-President, but will continue to be involved in committee and branch duties. Bill Moffat has stepped down as chairman of the Advisory Board. A.K. Sculthorpe is acting as interim chair, and has recruited Ms. Diane McCormick of Port Hope to take on the administrative duties. Records and billings are now on computer, making life easier for the next chair. Bob Sculthorpe has completed his term as chairman of the Heritage Fund Committee.

Margaret Goodbody

RECOMMENDED PROCEDURE FOR ESTABLISHING NEW BRANCHES OF THE ACO:

Although it is recognised that the impetus for starting a new Branch of the ACO is generally in response to a preservation crisis or need in a given town or region of Ontario, new Branches must realise that they are also members of a provincial organization concerned with heritage issues on many levels. The ACO Council recently considered and adopted the following recommendations designed to assist and encourage the formation of new Branches.

- *Formation of a new Branch can be initiated either by Council or by a group of interested people in the community.*
- *After an indication of interest in forming a Branch, the ACO President or his/her delegate shall meet the new group to explain the aims, structure, and activities of the ACO, both on the local and provincial levels.*
- *Within 2 weeks, a representative of the new group shall inform the Council representative of their intent in proceeding with steps to form a new Branch.*
- *Representatives of the new group shall be invited to attend the next Council meeting to observe, to ask questions, and to be given authorization to form a Branch.*
- *Guidelines in respect to naming a Branch, membership fees, financial responsibilities, letter head, and general activities shall be set out in writing at this time.*

- *Council shall make a \$200.00 interest free loan for one year to cover set-up costs.*
- *The new Branch shall be formally recognised at the next AGM of the ACO.*

Betty Dashwood

PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Programme Development Committee was set up in 1986. At that time it was given the responsibility of establishing terms of reference for a review of the ACO and considering the report based on that review. In 1990 its responsibilities were revised to cover the introduction of new programmes and any other matters which do not fall directly under the mandate of another standing committee. Thus, in 1990-91, it set up the series of workshops **Designing for Conservation** and it is now planning the conference on **Vernacular Architecture** in Ontario to be held in Brantford in April 1992. Under the second part of its mandate - accepting responsibility for matters which do not fall under other committees - it made recommendations to Council on the operation of its standing committees. These recommendations were accepted in June, 1991. Most committees of Council - Programme Development, Heritage Fund, Membership and Publicity, Fund Raising - are now required to meet at least four times a year and draw their members from both Council and the Branches.

Julia Beck

ADVISORY BOARD

The Advisory Board has new headquarters, The Midland House, 35 John St., Port Hope, and has become computerized. We hope that with this set up the burden of the paper work involved will be reduced and therefore make the job more efficient.

A.K. Sculthorpe
Interim Chairman

Editor's Note: The next ACORN issue will contain summaries of some Advisory Board reports.

ROYAL VISIT

On Friday October 25, as part of an official visit to Ontario, His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales visited the Art Gallery of Ontario. In the new sculpture atrium, behind the Grange, a panel of architects gave a brief overview of architecture in Ontario, followed by a discussion between The Prince, the panel and a small group of approximately twenty-five architects, architectural students and educators. Representing the ACO was vice president Spencer Higgins, ACORN editor emeritus Peter Stokes and Toronto branch members Dr. Thomas Howarth, William Greer and Susan Ford. The ACO was well represented. The Prince demonstrated a keen interest in the projects described and listened intently to the presentations.

Spencer Higgins

An open letter to members of the Architectural Conservancy

"The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario asks that you consider a donation to the Conservancy when you are choosing from the many worthwhile and important pleas that come to your desk.

We are aware of the difficulty the conscientious and caring citizen has when every day there are many requests from important and needy organizations.

Since 1933 the Conservancy has stressed the care and preservation of buildings of architectural and historic value and of places of natural beauty. Your thoughtful and kind consideration is very necessary and sincerely appreciated."

Mrs. Donna Baker - Past President of ACO Council

Contributions may be made to The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario. Income Tax receipts will be issued for gifts of \$10.00 or over.

Conference on Vernacular Architecture in Ontario

sponsored by The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario

DATES:

Friday 24th April, 1992.
Saturday 25th April, 1992

PLACE:

Brant County
Meetings: Woodland Cultural Centre, near Brantford.
Reception: Sanderson Centre, Brantford.
Tour of Brantford and Brant County

PROGRAMME:

Papers on a wide variety of subjects (including Iroquoian longhouses, Ontario Cottages, industrial landscapes) will be presented on Friday morning and afternoon and on Saturday morning. The tour on Saturday afternoon will emphasise vernacular buildings but will include buildings of particular architectural significance. Details of programme, information on accommodation and registration will be included in next issue of ACORN.

REGISTRATION:

\$75.00, includes lunch on Friday and Saturday, reception and bus tour.

PAPERS:

Papers to be presented at the conference are still being accepted. Send title and abstract to:

Julia Beck
312 Cromwell St.
London, Ontario, N6A 1Z6
(519) 672-3124

or

Alec Keefer
217 Dunn Ave.
Toronto, Ontario, M6K 2S1
(416) 947-1066

ENQUIRIES:

Vernacular Ontario
Architectural Conservancy of Ontario
10 Adelaide St. East, Suite 204
Toronto, Ontario M5C 1J3

1992 ACO Annual General Meeting

DATES:

Saturday, 25th April
Sunday, 26th April

PLACE:

Brantford

THEME:

Vernacular Buildings

DETAILS:

We expect the annual meeting - election of officers, presentation of president's and treasurer's annual reports - to take place early on Saturday evening. A bus tour of Brantford and the surrounding area, a walking tour in Brantford, Branch presentations and a dinner are now being planned.

Full details will be available in the next issue of ACORN.

NOTE:

At the 1991 Annual General Meeting it was announced that the 1992 meeting would be held in Brantford. We were delighted that we were able to make this announcement a year in advance of the meeting and thank the Brant County Branch for accepting the responsibility for planning the events associated with the AGM.

Plan now to attend the AGM and the Conference on Vernacular Architecture in Ontario which will immediately precede it.

Branch Reports

Quinte Region

WALKING TOURS

ACO's Quinte Region Branch has continued pretty nearly its normal pattern in 1991. We like to think that enthusiasts don't even have to mark their calendar, because we are so regular with our usual programme of architectural tours, at 2 p.m. on the third Sunday of every month but December. There is, admittedly, a tendency to make the winter events more like a stay-at-home lecture than a walkabout: the January one, with Annual Meeting and elections, was a sit-down affair at the School for the Deaf in Belleville, and the February one was a presentation on the Loyalist Parkway held in the Prince Edward County Museum at Picton. When it's an actual walking tour we get 80 or 90 people on a nice day, or about 40 when the weather is unfavourable.

The Branch deferred to the Madoc Historical Foundation's annual House Tour in May, giving up its own event for the first time ever and advertising instead the tour at Madoc.

In September, exceptionally, our well-known third-Sunday date became a fifth-Sunday one, due to local preferences, when we transmuted our walking tour into a bus tour of Faraday Township. At five dollars a head we filled a big school bus and departed at 12:30 for this one: Bancroft is a long way north of Belleville.

We have normally taken a fairly relaxed approach to our tours. Sometimes the leader has managed to print up a hand out in advance, and this is a very desirable and popular item. But ideally a report after the tour is more important, summarizing our observations in more permanent form. In any case, a good deal of site work is needed, whoever the leader is, to go over the ground and talk to every possible person along the way and say that we are going to be coming

by at a certain approximate time and peering at their places from the road. We try to arrange to go into practically every church and public building along the route. We do not normally promise or advertise that we are going into any particular private house, but of course we do troop through, with great joy, whenever the opportunity offers. We try to get someone at each site to tell what he knows of its history and features.

A free-will collection in a basket at the four-o'clock tea-and-cookies table will amount perhaps to thirty dollars. Sometimes we spend it on tea things, and sometimes our president gives it to the local hosts. Latterly our tour leaders have been clever at getting a church group or the like to provide refreshments, but there's a danger here. I'd rather, as leader, do the tea myself, rushed as it has to be, than find that anyone whatever was spending time in preparations rather than actually walking about with the group and looking at buildings and streetscapes.

NEWSLETTER

The Quinte Region Branch has been publishing a newsletter six times per year, on the first of February, April, June, August, October, and December - immediately in each case after our Bi-Monthly Council Meeting. For one 40-cent postage stamp on the letter-size envelope we can mail three 8 1/2 x 17" sheets plus the weight of two small advertising flyers. The sheets are folded at the printer's to give us eight pages of news and four pages as Supplement, or sometimes, if we wish, four of news and eight of Supplement.

Printing the Supplements is paid for out of our Heritage Fund rather than out of our Newsletter budget. The original idea was that this should be the initial means of circulating the results of the Quinte Tours project to our members. Pending that, these sheets have served as picture reports on some of our recent tours. David Bentley, Sue Cory, and Bob Hintz have produced

Supplements on Warkworth, Frankford, Tweed, and Consecon recently, and these have been well received. The other events remain pretty well unreported, and that is something to work on.



Black Walnut tree planted c 1810 on Consecon tour.
Rodger C. Greig

Though our list is probably never just up to date, our Quinte Region Branch Newsletter has been sent, for years now, bi-monthly, to ACO Council and to all Branch Acorn editors and newsletter editors. We wish other Branches would take the trouble to circulate their material to the other Branches too. Here is a proposal to ACO Council: can there not be a centralized list of proper contacts, that every newsletter editor could add to his mailing list? Or maybe every Branch could simply send a bundle of thirty copies or so of their newsletter to the central office in Toronto for bulk mailings from there. It's newsletter editors in particular that need to receive this material, to keep our members in touch.

The Quinte Region Branch has 133 paid memberships. Since many of these represent families or organizations, that's a lot of people. We print up three hundred newsletters each time, and mail out two hundred to our members and other contacts. This leaves 100 to distribute at walking tours or events such as the Quinte Arts Council's display or the annual Heritage Showcase. Membership fees have never quite covered the cost of the newsletter, but donors have responded splendidly: in 1991 so far there have been 16 donations to our Branch's Heritage Fund, totalling \$295, and 31 to our Operating Fund, totalling \$675, for a sum of \$970 given by 44 separate donors.



A pocket of good farming soil a little bit north of Bancroft on the Faraday Township tour.
Rodger C. Greig

Well-established over the nine years since it was founded, and growing a little every year, the Quinte Region Branch expects to continue its familiar activities in 1992.

Roger C. Greig

Port Hope

McLAUGHLIN BUICK CLUB

The McLaughlin Buick Club of Canada brought their antique cars to Port Hope in August. They were addressed, after a lunch at the United Church, by Marion Garland, on the architecture of Port Hope. They later visited old St. Mark's Church.

SCHOOL LECTURES

The Branch has been asked to give talks on Port Hope's architecture to seventh graders in Dr. Hawkins' School. Using Mrs. Garland's two booklets on *Architectural Terms* and *Choose the Style*, a teacher has designed lessons to be given before each talk. The Branch feels that interesting the children in the town's architectural inheritance is a step in the right direction. Mrs. Garland will give the first talk, and Mrs. Sculthorpe has also offered to help.

CAROUSEL RESTORATION

The Branch has been asked to assist the Roseneath Agricultural Society to help their Carousel Restoration program. A donation has been sent.

MARSH INN

The Branch has given a grant to Mr. Jim McHolm to rebuild one of his four chimneys. His house is the Marsh Inn and was built by William Marsh c. 1840, and used as a Stage Coach Inn. It is a building of both architectural and historical importance. His house is now in the process of being designated, and he has met several times with a representative of the Ontario Heritage Foundation, members of Hope Township L.A.C.A.C. and A.C.O. members to discuss a large grant to enable him to restore the building as a whole. This building is on #2 Highway, 1 mile west of Welcome, just past the Deerpark Road, so named as it ran past William Marsh's deer park.

The chimney that has been repaired is a very large and interesting one. The flues are one in front of the other, instead of side by side as is usual. Each flue is long and thin but even so each flue is 8" to 10" wide. Another interesting feature of the chimney

is that in lieu of metal flashing, a flashing course of projecting bricks in an overlapping stepped pattern was provided parallel to the roof slope to form a protective water shed.

WESLEYVILLE CHURCH

Last year the Wesleyville Church received a new cedar shingle roof. This year the restoration has moved along another step. The chimney was rebuilt with old brick to match the original bricks. The eaves return, eaves, soffits and eavestroughs have been repaired and painted as has the front door. The windows and window sills are next year's project.

Marion Garland

HOUSE TOUR

The Port Hope Annual House Tour was held on October 5, and again was a sellout one week before tour date.

Eight houses, one church, a walking tour, and an historic photo exhibit *The Long Family Photo Collection* were all on the agenda for this year's tour.

The walking tour was well attended and thanks to the Belleville A.C.O., they were among our first customers for this event. Tom Long's historic photo exhibit of streetscapes and houses on tour drew large crowds at the Town Hall. We are fortunate to have this historic photo record of this town, and many times it is used to aid in restoration of local buildings.

Houses on tour included Penryn Homestead. This estate was built in 1829 by Commander John Tucker Williams now owned and restored by Don and Roberta Paterson. Also Penryn Park Farmhouse, a simple Edwardian farm house built in 1913.



Penryn Homestead, south side, showing octagonal outhouse, now a garden shed.
Amy Quinn

A new house, on tour this year was Hill Cottage built by Lars Eriksson in 1990 for Gordon Macfarlane. This new house is based on a traditional design by Napier Simpson of the old Ontario Cottage.

Also on tour was the home of Audrey and Noel Simpson, a simple gabled storey and half house built in 1868.

Hill and Dale, a wonderful estate built in 1851 now owned by David and Jeanne Henderson offered the tour a bit of Country in the Town.



Hill and Dale, facing south.
Amy Quinn

John and Debbie Doherty opened the doors of their 1855 house on Pine Street for the day.

A house best described as a new-Classical design with Gothic overtones. 54 Dorset St. E. built in 1905, this house is remarkably little changed internally from its Edwardian original.

The last house on tour offered a wonderful surprise. Mill House owned by Clay and Carol Benson was built by Thomas Milson as residence for Mr. Orr, who managed Milson mill. Recently restored by the present owners, the house is filled with wonderful early painted furnishings from Ontario, Quebec, and the Maritimes.

Also on the Benson property, open for the day, was a local log house built in the mid 1840s by Nicholas Dodds. This also was restored by the Bensons as an example of one of the first rural homes built by settlers of Hope Township.

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church was built in 1905 and is a fine example of Richardsonian Romanesque. Extensive restoration of the towers, church front, and painting of the sanctuary have been undertaken in recent years.

Over \$18,000 was raised to aid in the restoration of designated buildings in this historic town.

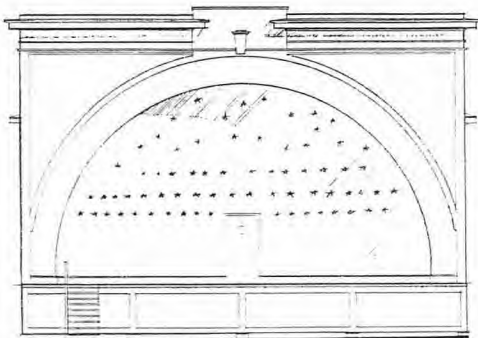
THE MEMORIAL BANDSHELL

The Port Hope Memorial Bandshell has caught the attention of the local branch of ACO. The bandshell is in good structural condition, but in need of extensive restoration, including stucco and wood trim. It was built in 1948 as a memorial to commemorate the people of Port Hope and Hope Township who died in both World Wars. Since its

construction minimal maintenance has occurred, also the original site was a poor choice with the road, (Augusta St.) being too close, which in turn inhibits the audience from enjoying the performances.

The Port Hope ACO is assuming a leadership role and has put up \$15,000 to get our "Shell Game" underway. A proposed move across the street into Memorial Park seems the best option. Architect Philip Carter did a study analyzing four possible nearby sites and a favourite has been chosen. Landscape Architect Graham Moore is doing a landscape study of the immediate area to study the impact on trees and the park itself. It is hoped once the move has occurred other organizations and civic groups will come forward to help plan the restoration and fundraising so this structure can become a safe and viable focus for Memorial Park.

Amy Quinn
Tour Chairman



Port Hope Memorial Bandshell
Phillip H. Carter, Architect

THE GARDEN TOUR

Down The Garden Path, the Port Hope bi-annual garden tour held July 13th was a great success, once again, and promises to be an on-going event.

Eight gardeners proudly displayed their grounds, a variety of styles for all to see. This year's proceeds went towards St. Mark's restoration and the garden mentioned below. Plan to attend the next tour in 1993.

July 13th also saw the official opening of a garden at the Mill and Walton St. corner. The Port Hope branch donated almost \$14,000 of the approximate \$21,000 required for completion, as well as providing funds for the initial plans. Graham Moore, Landscape Architect and resident of the town implemented recommendations made by the 1987 Facade Study committee. He designed the garden, choosing plants relating to the history of the town, and trees,

shrubs, flowers, annuals and perennials were planted. The result was an array of colours highlighting the once bleak intersection, providing a perfect complement for the 19th century streetscape. A treat to the eye for all passers-by.

Kathryn McHolm
Tour Chairman

PUTTING OUR BEST FRONT FORWARD

Three newly restored storefronts have been recently installed in Port Hope. Uptowne Antiques, at the top of town on Ridout St. (upper Walton St.) is a restoration of a previously removed and bricked-in store-front. This area of town, historically, displayed an active commercial district which is almost totally forgotten and missing. It is wonderful to see this well done storefront re-appear after generations of absence. Restoration drawings by P. J. Stokes and construction by Le Coz Upper Canada Design, Building owners are Steve and Laurie Gouldiuk.

Collection of Historic Photos of Port Hope aided in the drawings for this project. Evidence of window sizes was luckily present when the previous storefront was removed. Drawings by David Simmons, the building owner, and Frederick Le Coz of Le Coz Upper Canada Design, Cold Springs. Construction by Le Coz Upper Canada Design.

Exterior restoration of 1 Walton St., Port Hope, the Waddell Block, is almost complete with the storefront being the grand finale. The installation of the restored cupola was described in the Spring 1991 issue of ACORN. The storefront of this key landmark building is nearing completion with window installation occurring at press time. Historic photos enabled building owners Don and Joan Rumgay to restore original glazing patterns on the storefront.

It is wonderful to see three restored storefronts emerge in Port Hope. As we are all aware, storefronts have been desecrated from the earliest times with banks being the



Walton Street, Port Hope
Michael Wallace

Next, the handsome restored arched-topped windows and transom for the Pips and the Magpie storefront on Walton St. Port Hope. This restoration is a welcomed addition to a totally unmemorable replaced storefront. Photos from *The Long Family*

worst culprit. Here we have three dedicated building owners who have gone to a lot of trouble to ensure that a true restoration takes place. Banking industry take note!

Lee Caswell



Walton Street , Port Hope
Michael Wallace



1 Walton Street Waddell Block
Michael Wallace

Toronto Region

RUSHOLME ROAD STUDY

"TRAC believes that we must always consider architecture in relation to the men and women who built it as well as to those who subsequently live in it". We were fortunate to receive a copy of *A Study of Rusholme Road* just before press time.

Rusholme Road between Bloor and College Streets in Toronto is a turn of the century development with many large houses set back from the property line, some with side yards and shaded by numerous large trees.

True to TRAC's belief they have produced an excellent study of this street with archival photos and present day photos and have included some history of the people who lived in these homes, many of them built in the Edwardian style between 1901 and 1910.

The data is very interesting. It gives the municipal address, lot number, building permit number, the name of the person to whom the permit was issued, the architect's name or firm and the dollar value of the permit. This type of primary research is invaluable in understanding our built heritage. We look forward to more of these studies in the future.

Marg Rowell



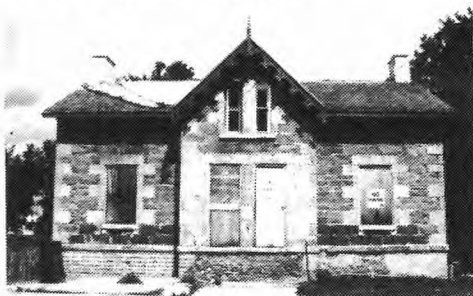
167 Rusholme Rd. Built in 1908 for H. Hutson, J. Hunt Stanford was the architect.
Pierre Vaillancourt

Just a reminder *Toronto's Theatre Block*, (see Review ACORN XV 1 1990) and *Terra Cotta Artful Deceiver* (ACORN XVI 2 1991) are still available from TRAC.

Heritage Cambridge

HOUSE TOURS

Over 500 people turned out for the 1991 Heritage Cambridge house tour this October. The event, organized every other year, is our organization's main fundraising initiative and not only enables the group to fund their own operation but also to assist owners of local heritage buildings. One hundred and ten volunteers, under the leadership of house tour chairperson Judy Sago, made the event run smoothly and raised \$6,000 in the process.



Webster House on Grand Ave. S., Cambridge, owned by Bradley Paddock is undergoing restoration. It is constructed of ashlar grey granite with limestone quoins.
Lynda Schneider

The seven houses on this year's tour showcased a fascinating variety of architectural styles, from a much renovated 1845 Mennonite Georgian farmhouse to a Scottish stone worker's cottage currently undergoing a complete restoration to a recently re-modeled and lavishly decorated 1922 Art Deco home.

The house tours are an important focal point of Heritage Cambridge activity, not only for the considerable financial benefit but as a means of raising the profile of our organization's other activities within the community. The carefully selected properties, it is hoped, will also educate the public by demonstrating what can be done with older buildings.



MacIntosh-Schneider House c. 1855 on the Cheese Factory Road
Lynda Schneider



Astbury House Salisbury Ave., Cambridge. Constructed in 1922 in the Art Deco Style.
Lynda Schneider

BRANCH MEETINGS

A recent low key membership campaign has increased our numbers to a record 135 paid members. In an effort to provide better service to them, a long moribund newsletter was revived. "Heritage Cambridge News", while still quite simple, will keep our members aware of the group's initiatives. Two recent general meetings were organized by Board member Tish Ostlund. In June, Ontario Historical Society Director, Dorothy Duncan provided members with an entertaining slide presentation entitled "Reviving Our Past: Upstairs and Downstairs in the Victorian Age".

October's General Meeting brought together a panel of experts to handle questions on "Overcoming the Health Hazards of Heritage Building Restoration". The workshop was developed to answer questions such as:

- *What kind of insulation should I use?*
- *How should I handle it?*
- *What do I do if I find asbestos?*
- *Does the paint I am stripping off have lead in it?*
- *Can I or my children get lead poisoning from it?*
- *How do I prevent a chimney fire in an old chimney?*
- *What do I look for to make sure my chimney is safe?*

Experts Bob Reitzel of Reitzel Insulation Co. Ltd., paint chemical expert Dr. Jeremy Clapp and Jan Herold of Hearthstone answered these and the many other questions raised by a concerned audience.

MCDUGALL COTTAGE

The completion of conservation work on the wall murals in the McDougall Cottage at 89 Grand Avenue South has brought to a satisfying conclusion, Heritage Cambridge's involvement in the home's interior and exterior restoration. The group is currently undertaking an active search for their next major project.

Cathy Blackburn

GOLDIE COTTAGE DESIGNATED

On September 15, 1991 the "White House on the River" or the Goldie Cottage was designated a heritage Building by the North Dumfries Township LACAC.

The house is owned by Doctors Mary-Jean and Chris Page. It was built in the 1830s on the banks of the Nith River in the settlement known as Greenfield near Ayr, Ontario. This hamlet grew up around the Goldie Mill and some early workers houses still remain.

In 1860 David Goldie bought this house. He was the son of John Goldie who was a botanist of some renown have travelled in Ontario extensively collecting plant material. Some of the specimens can still be seen in the herbarium at Kew Gardens.

The house is a one and a half storey frame dwelling now covered by vinyl cove siding. It has undergone some alterations, but the front porch with its Regency trelliage is most attractive. An addition on the right side, overlooking the river fits in very well with the architecture of the main house.

The setting is most attractive. It is surrounded by a large number of trees and many beautiful flower beds. The Page family has brought a once empty neglected house back to life.

Marg Rowell



Gardens at Goldie Cottage
Joyce Arndt



Goldie Cottage near Ayr. The window to the right of the door has been removed to allow for a fireplace.

Joyce Arndt

North Waterloo Region

THE WATERLOO POST OFFICE

During the last year the skyline of the City of Waterloo has improved greatly. The tower of the Post Office has been restored.

The Post Office and Customs House was built at the corner of King Street North and Dupont Street, on land donated to the Crown by the Dominion Life Assurance Company in 1909. Construction started in 1911 and the building was completed by May 1913.

Built after the typical federal post office design, the building is a handsome mix of red brick and brown stone with an imposing corner clock tower. The work was carried out under the supervision of Mr. L. B. Lachance of Ottawa. Some delay in completing the building was caused when the stone specified could not be obtained and a substitute was used from New Brunswick.

The main building measures 58 feet, 8 inches by 41 feet. The rear portion is 29 feet by 41 feet, 8 inches. Mr. Charles Moogk, town engineer, was appointed by the Department of Public Works to supervise the construction. The building cost about \$50,000.

The following had the contracts for the work on the structure.

Interior fittings - Schell & Co. Alexandria Ontario

Painting - Jacob Huber

Plumbing - Brown & Semple, Brockville

Electric wiring - Waterloo Electric Construction Co.

Plastering - Mr. Mahoney, Guelph

An addition was added at the south-west corner in 1944 using similar building materials.

In 1967 the new Post Office was constructed and this one was sold to Earl Putnam who leased it to the University of Waterloo until 1975. During the time the University rented it a fire on the third floor damaged that portion of the building and the tower and this resulted in the shortening of the tower and its modification as shown in the photo.

The building then changed hands several times and during this time the windows were altered from the original to the present thermal pane windows.

In 1987, 667964 Ontario Inc. purchased the building. The building was designated in 1988. MKS (Mortice Kern Systems Inc.) with Randall Howard as Vice-President of Research and Development had previously expressed an interest in restoring the clock tower and undertaking other work that would rehabilitate the building.



Waterloo Post Office before tower restoration.

*Personal Studio
Bob Nichol Photographer*

John Clinckett, architect, was retained for the work. A grant from the Regional Heritage Foundation, an MCC Commercial Rehabilitation Grant and a Designated Property Grant were applied for and received. The original drawings and specifications were still available and the work proceeded. The general contractor, was Belair Restorations of London, Ontario. The brick work was done by Brick Plus Restoration Limited and the stone work by Tony O'hagan of Belair.

The official opening and heritage designation ceremony was held on April 26, 1991.

Marg Zavaros, Marg Rowell

FRENZEL-KUEBART HOUSE

The research necessary to designate a building in Ontario as architecturally or historically significant often reveals interesting sidelights of the family that built the house.

This was certainly the case when Wellesley Township LACAC decided to investigate the Frenzel-Kuebart house on Lot 4, Concession IV, Wellesley Township, for the purpose of designation.

The Frenzel-Kuebart house is located a short distance from Bamberg, Ontario. On a 63 acre farm, the very early 1 1/2 storey log house is a good example of the simple rural permanent homes of the earliest settlers in Wellesley Township. It is one of the last log houses in the area to have survived over 140 years without exterior alterations.

The house has a full basement. The foundation is 21 inches thick, constructed of mortar, and plain or split fieldstone.

The walls are built of horizontal logs, squared at the ends, and are 12 feet high. The logs are not dovetailed at the corners and the gaps between the logs are filled with strips of wood and covered with mortar.



Waterloo Post Office after tower restoration.

*Personal Studio
Bob Nichol Photographer*

The gable ends of the house have board and batten vertical planks over the framing.

The roof is a low gable with wooden soffits and plain wooden verges. At the present time the roof is covered with asphalt shingles, but there is evidence that the original roofing material was cedar shingles.

The south wall of the 26 x 22 foot building has three bays and an attached porch. The porch roof is supported by posts which are chamfered on the corners. There are four windows in both the west and east walls, and no windows in the north wall.

The first research priority was to try to establish the age of the house. Since the entire township of Wellesley was a clergy reserve until first surveyed in 1843, the only reliable local source for early structures is the 1851 Census.

The 1851 census¹ revealed that a 1 1/2 storey log house existed on Lot 4, Con. IV. A family by the name of Frenzel was resident on the farm. Adam Frenzel, aged 36, and his wife, Ann, aged 36, who were farmers from Germany, were listed as Roman Catholic supporters. There were six children. The oldest child, Ann Marie, was 14 years old, and the second child, John, was 10 years old. Both of these children had been born in Germany before the family emigrated. The four younger children, George (7), Nicholas (5), Anthony (3), and Barbara (1), had been born in Canada.

From this information it is possible to conclude that the house is over 140 years old. Adam and Ann Frenzel were both born in 1815. The daughter, Ann Frenzel, was born in 1837, and in 1841 the oldest son, John Frenzel was born. The family emigrated sometime between 1841 and 1844 when George, who was seven in 1851, was born in Canada.

The birth of George was confirmed by the Baptismal Register² at the Roman Catholic Wilmot Mission in St. Agatha which lists a Joseph Frenzen, baptized on March 7, 1845. The parents were stated to be Anne Marie and Adam Frenzen, who were listed as living in Wilmot Township. Allowing for the misspelled name, and the fact that Wellesley Township was in the process of being surveyed and opened for settlement, it seems reasonable to conclude that Frenzen equals Frenzel, and Joseph was probably Joseph George Frenzel. The family could have been living in Wilmot, and later moved to Wellesley Township when the new farms became available a few years later. The occupation of the house and land in Wellesley Township by the Frenzel family is confirmed by both the 1851 Census, and the Tremaine Map of 1861.

The log house, which is situated in a small valley at the rear of Lot 4, Concession



Frenzel-Kuebart log house south-east corner.
Pat McKegney

IV, was the home of the Frenzel family for about 28 years until the death of Adam Frenzel on May 6, 1879.

In his will³, Adam Frenzel named his nine children as his beneficiaries. His son, Michael Frenzel, was to be an Executor of his estate, and to receive the 52 acre farm. His daughter, Magdalena Frenzel, was to keep the farm for one year. He gave her all his household furniture, wearing apparel, and personal property, as well as \$16.00 and his cow. The remaining seven off-spring, John, Joseph, Ann Marie, Barbara, Nicholas, Hutbon and Frederich each were to receive \$5.00, a total of \$35.00, to be paid within a year of his death.

Five years later, on April 15, 1884, Michael Frenzel sold the property to John Meirowski of the Township of Waterloo for \$1677.00. One of the conditions of sale was the payment of \$35.00 to settle Adam Frenzel's estate.⁴

The official designation of the property by the Wellesley Township LACAC took place on August 6, 1991, when the Township Council passed By-Law 38/91.

Patricia P. McKegney

Sources

1 1851 Manuscript Census, p. 42. Wellesley Township Historical Society.

2 Baptismal Register, 1845. Wilmot Mission, St. Agatha. Archives, Archdiocese of Toronto.

3 Registry Office. Region of Waterloo, Kitchener, Ontario. Inst. AE 4687.

4 Registry Office. Region of Waterloo, Kitchener, Ontario. Inst. AE 6213.

Brant County

BETHEL STONE CHURCH

A successful award presentation took place recently at Bethel Stone United Church, R.R. 3 Paris, when the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, Brant County Branch, took part in the 127th Anniversary Program.

Marion Sheridan, Past President, convened the Conservancy portion of the event; Cheryl Wood, Secretary, looked after publicity; Michael O'Byrne, President of the Branch, presented the award to Harold Miller, Chairman of the Church Board, and to the Rev. Diane Walker, Minister to the congregation.

Dorothy Craig, a long-term church member, told of the history of the congregation, in particular of the laborious work of cutting stone and mixing lime for the building of the 1864 edifice.

Audrey Scott, Executive Secretary of the conservancy group, presented a brief summary of her architectural description of the church. Of classical proportions, the building is three wide bays long and three narrow bays wide in classical proportion. A narthex, copied in design and proportion from the original structure, was added in 1969. Both narthex and original structure have low pediments with decorative round central vents. There are corner quoins (decorative stones which also formerly outlined the front windows, now filled in because of the narthex.) Rusticated stones head the 12-over-12 paned windows with

their deep interior embrasures. A 1983 addition to the rear was made in the same style with similar stone coursing.

The Conservancy award recognized the faithful worship and worthship of the congregation in maintaining their fine old structure.

Audrey Scott

Oxford County

MARKET BUILDING

After lengthy negotiation and much legal advice the Woodstock City Council has decided to accept the offer of Pro Urban Developments Ltd. of Brampton, a division of Reinders Group Ltd., to purchase the Market Building in downtown Woodstock. The price was not disclosed.

While details are not complete at this time the proposal showing renovations planned has been warmly accepted by those who have closely studied them. The re-cycling of the building will make few changes to the original character of the 1895 building. Extensive renovations to the building's long-neglected interior will be carried out. Outside renovations include a new roof, new windows, doors, brick cleaning and restoring old clerestory style skylights to their original appearance. The building will be a multi-purpose occupancy to include offices, boutiques, food and produce sales and possibly a first-class restaurant. The Brampton company is prepared to spend more than one million dollars on the proposed renovations and if completed as planned, which includes new landscaping, the former glory of this grand old structure will be retained and it will be an edifice of which we can all be proud once more.

The Market Building's architectural significance will be retained and its benefit to the downtown area is quite obvious. As a showpiece in the central core it will attract more shoppers to the area and also to the community and enhance our tourism value as a city.

CITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
GUEST SPEAKER

Our November meeting's speaker was Mr. Len Magyar, Woodstock's Development Officer. It was a very rewarding session and one that other branches should consider, particularly if it is possible to extend the question period to an unlimited time. Our speaker was very generous and the dialogue in the question period was exceedingly beneficial for everyone. His visit was very

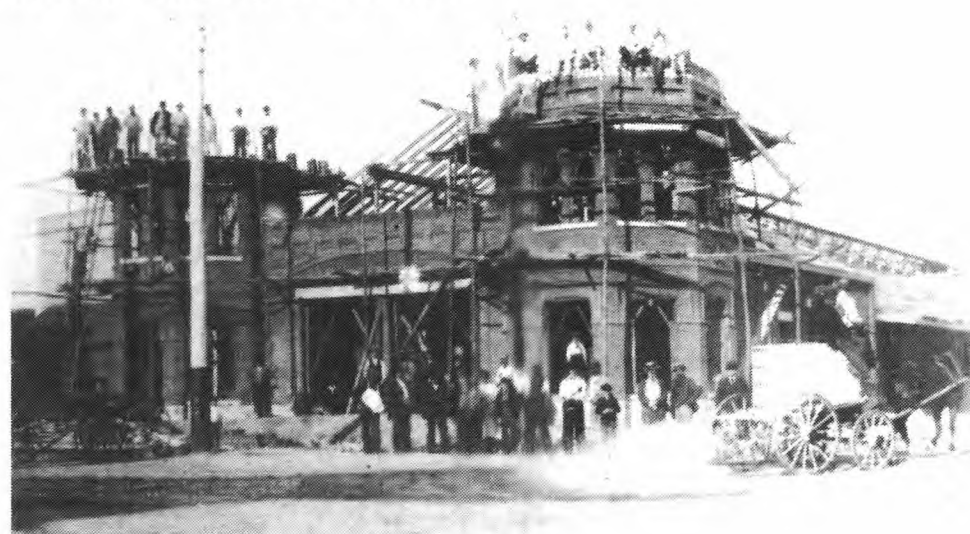


Bethel Stone Church near Paris.
from the Canadian Church Calendar 1985
submitted by Violet Fair

timely as it coincided with the City Council's announcement of the restoration plans for the Market Building. Woodstock has a new Mayor and some new members on Council. Let us hope that we can con-

tinue to save our fine heritage buildings and retain their traditional character.

Edwin Bennett



Woodstock Market Building under construction in 1895.
Edwin Bennett



Woodstock Market Building
Edwin Bennett

London Region

TALBOT STREETSCAPE FINALE

After nearly two years of grappling with the ways of preserving London's last remaining Victorian streetscape over the objection of the owner, Cambridge Leaseholds, London City Council gave up the battle on September 16, 1991. The commercial block on the west side of Talbot Street between Dundas and King Street was rezoned to permit only the existing buildings and uses within them in October 1989 and designated under the Ontario Heritage Act in August 1990. It was also the rationale for obtaining Provincial legislation in December 1990 which permitted London Council to prohibit the demolition until the owner has obtained a permit to erect a new building on the site.

City Council voted twelve to seven against the Planning Committee recommendation to refer back, the rezoning requested by Cambridge Leaseholds to consider alternatives to permitting the demolition of most of the streetscape and replacement with parking as a temporary use. The demolition started two days later.

Council approval required a heritage easement to maintain the facade of the Talbot Inn at the corner of Talbot and Dundas Street and the construction of buildings "having a style which is complimentary to the remaining building facade fronting onto Talbot Street". As requested by the Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee, the approval also required an archaeological assessment of the buildings and subsurface. One of the justifications mentioned by the Committee was the possibility of uncovering some remains of London's first city hall which was located at the corner of Talbot Street and King Street and appears in the 1883 Paul Peel painting of Covent Garden Market.

On September 25, 1991, the 150 year old timber structure of the old city hall was found inside later brick walls. Michael Baker, president of the London Region Branch - Architectural Conservancy of Ontario and Bill Finlayson, executive director of the Fanshawe Pioneer Village Board put together a proposal to move and reconstruct the building. They were scheduled to appear before London Board of Control on October 2, 1991.

The old structure was demolished the day before the Board of Control Meeting.

Councillor Mary Lynn Metras, who opposed the demolition of the Talbot streetscape, told a public "post mortem"

meeting held on October 3, 1991 that most councillors felt that the majority of Londoners didn't support the preservation of the streetscape.¹ Council was not prepared to expropriate the properties or provide any financial contribution to save them.

The loss of this heritage battle, after convincing Council that the properties should be designated against the wishes of the owner, was distressing to the Architectural Conservancy, the Talbot Street Coalition and all of those involved over many years. The Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee questioned the commitment of City Council to the preservation of designated properties but was convinced to carry on.

The municipal election will bring four new faces to City Council. According to Ann McColl Lindsay of the Talbot Street Coalition, the speedy demolition of the Talbot streetscape turned out to be a smart strategy for Cambridge Leaseholds because the newly elected councillors would have come to the rescue of the historic buildings. She believes that the additional pro-heritage votes that will be on the new Council would have been enough to ensure that the streetscape would still be standing.²

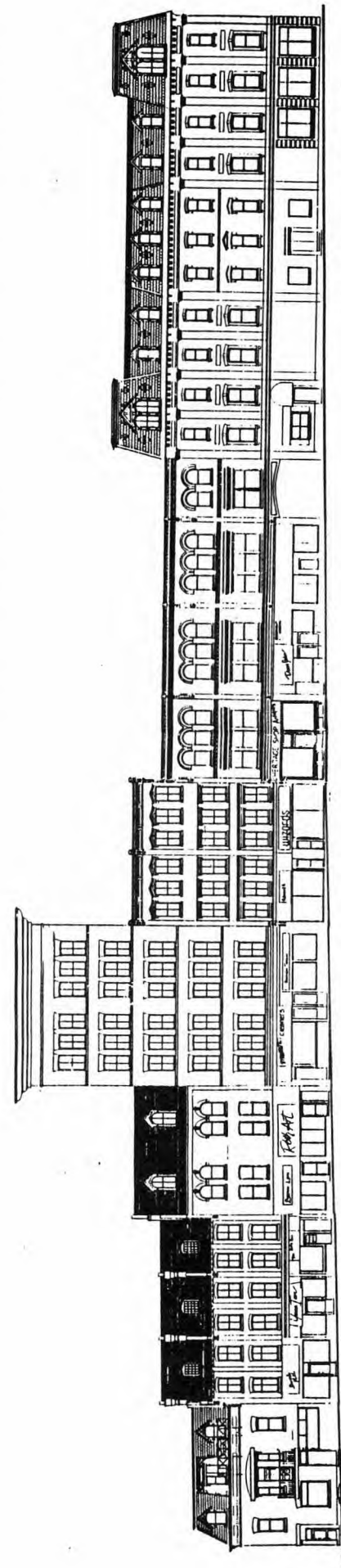
Howard A Pulver

1 "Panel Assesses Loss of Streetscape", London Free Press, October 4, 1991

2 "New-Look Council May Bring Shift in Balance of Power", p. A-1 London Free Press, November 14, 1991

BUILDINGS LOST AND SAVED - ERROR

The article in the last edition gave an incorrect address for the Labatt Restoration. The buildings are at 435, 441, 443 and 451 Ridout Street.



Herbert S. Craig Howard Pulver

Talbot Streetscape, London

The Restoration of St. Mark's Church, Port Hope

The early white frame structure built in 1822, has recently undergone major structural and restoration work. What began as a relatively minor paint and fix-up project of the tower and west facade, soon became a major restoration project.

During this intensive investigation, many interesting discoveries were made. The 1841 Bartlett print corroborated one finding, that the church tower had a "flat or low-slope roof surmounted by an octagon lantern or cupola, possibly capped by a hemispherical or bell-shaped dome in the neo-Classic manner", announced P. J. Stokes in his report. It had been thought that Bartlett took some artistic license in many of his early views, so it was a pleasant surprise to discover he was true to form. The present gothicized tower we now see is thought to have evolved after 1841 as alterations occurred c. 1841, c. 1851 and c. 1892 as church documents attest.

Another important discovery was the uncovering of two secondary, two-panelled doors with arched and panelled transom matching that of the main entrance door. These doors and the porch itself are thought to date to the 1841 or 1851 alteration and are present in a c. 1880 watercolour from a church collection. The long forgotten doors have been hidden from view since 1892 when the church was strapped and re-clad with a second layer of clapboards. The two secondary doors, one each side of the main door; originally led, by way of small boxed stairs, to an upper interior gallery in the church. These tiny boxed stairs were removed and replaced with a single stairwell leading to a reduced-sized gallery. Since access to this stairwell was now in the vestibule, the doors were redundant and thus covered over. Luckily they were left remaining and have been re-incorporated as a great point of interest. SEE COVER PHOTO.

The church tower has been changed since early Victorian times. The octagon lantern theory, as discussed earlier, is proven by the mortises cut in what was formerly roof timbers showing the octagonal pattern. The roof on this octagon lantern could have been a "dome, either a hemisphere or a bell-shaped form" says P. J. Stokes. This is a typical feature of neo-Classical churches of this period such as the

Ridgemount Church near Fort Erie. P. J. Stokes goes on to point out similarities with the later stone Anglican church in Consecon (now the local library, Prince Edward County) with its flat-roofed tower and the octagon with small pinnacles as finials. When the St. Marks octagon disappeared, approximately 20-30 years after it was built, the present gothic details appeared. At this time the stepped crenellation top appeared surmounted by four pinnacles. The Bartlett print shows square-headed window openings to the nave. Windows in the tower were changed at this time as the tower height and porch was extended. Also the south gothic window on the tower was added c. 1892 to light the vestibule stairs.

The neo-Classical cupola present in the early few years in St. Mark's history must have been a wonderful early feature, but it's

created a sealed space which was unventilated. Moisture from the tower above, window openings and lower water problems had no where to go thus rot and the continuous paint peeling have been problems. The original and the 1892 clapboards were removed and major repairs to tower beams were carried out. Beams were spliced and improvements made to window surrounds. Insulation and a vapour barrier were installed and an undersheathing of plywood was applied with a wind-stop of Tyvek or Tytar. On top of this was installed vertical strapping vented at the bottom by stainless steel insect screening. Dual-sided priming to new clapboards occurred before installation; then applied to the strapping to match existing exposure of the original cladding. Window trim was then restored to accommodate new thicknesses of cladding. This



St. Mark's Church, photo from a Bartlett print of 1841.

Michael Wallace
Photographer, Port Hope

restoration would be conjecture as no height of the cupola nor dome shape can be exactly established. The present tower represents a unique and pleasing evolution. The gothic tower we now see has been present for at least 130 years, with the 1826 Albany, N.Y. bell intact which was presented by J. Walton, an early founder of Port Hope and an early parishioner. The re-cladding of the whole church in 1892 has led to the serious problems which have now been corrected. The church was strapped and new clapboards installed over the old. This air cavity

is the process described by P. J. Stokes in the Fall 1991 ACORN practised on the Allan Macpherson House in Napanee. Finally, copper capping to all exposed horizontal surfaces ie crenellated top and porch parapets; a hidden tower roof of EPDM (rubber membrane) and a porch roof of cedar (seen from the ground): all contribute to St. Mark's new waterfree restoration.

The decision by the Church Wardens to restore the first phase including west facade and tower is an admirable one. A restoration as opposed to a bandaid approach is really

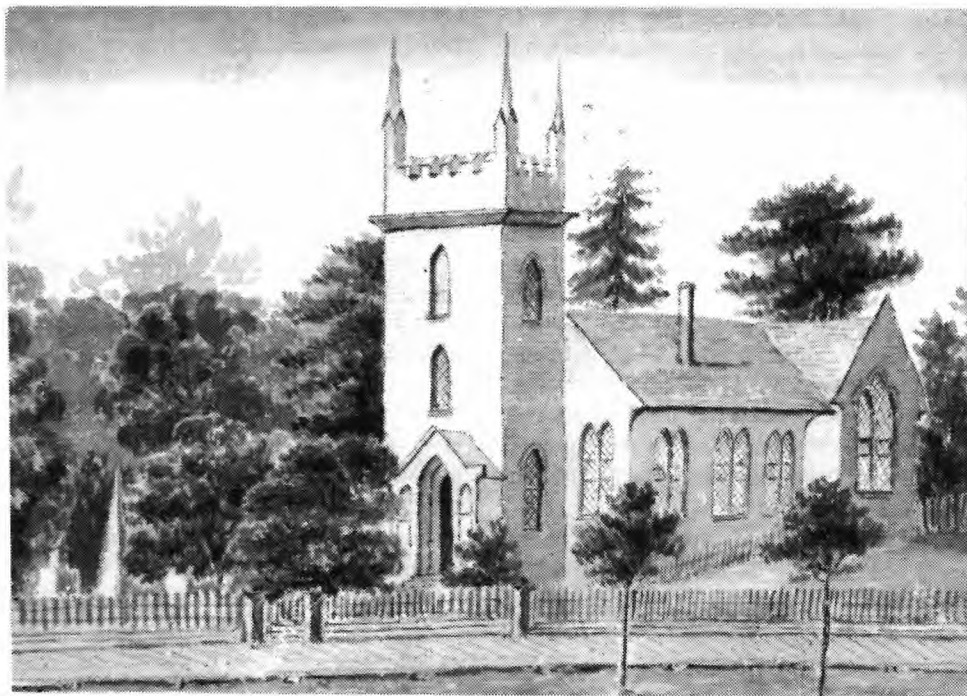


Photo of an 1880 watercolour of St. Mark's Church.
Michael Wallace
Photographer, Port Hope

the only way to go, and much credit goes to the wardens for their decision. Craftsmen working on St. Mark's Restoration are Kim Turnbull & Associates, master painter Walter Schuster and Gerald Sproule.

The Port Hope ACO has financially committed to this project and as well the Toronto Anglican Diocese has given interim loans in support of this expensive restoration project. There is an active Fund Raising Committee who would very much appreciate any financial help toward the unexpectedly high cost of restoration to this small parishes' historic church. St. Marks, at 170 years is showing it's age, but an active, dedicated group is performing miracles.

Chiefswood: Meeting Place of Two Cultures

A couple of times over the past few years, I have taken out-of-town guests to visit *Chiefswood*. On such occasions, I have been disillusioned to find the house closed and appearing deserted, devoid of all furnishings.

Chiefswood, of course, is the house where Emily Pauline Johnson, arguably Canada's greatest poet, arguably also the greatest poet extolling native culture in the English language, beyond any doubt Canada's greatest Indian Woman poet, was born and spent her childhood years.

All donations over \$25.00 will be issued a receipt for income tax purposes. Tax receipts will be issued upon request for donations of \$10.00 to \$25.00. Please make cheques payable to:

St. Mark's Restoration Fund
51 King St.
Port Hope, Ontario
L1A 2R6
Lee Caswell,
President Port Hope Branch

The house was built with two identical fronts. One faces the Grand River, which was the channel for nearly all traffic, both passenger and freight, when the house was built. The other faces the highway, which was minor when the house was built but superseded the river's importance as a channel of traffic in the 1910 era. The two fronts have added significance in that one (the river side) faces the Six Nations community while the other faces the community of European settlers: Pauline Johnson's mother was English, a member of the European com-

munity. Her father was a hereditary Mohawk chief. The house, then, symbolically has no back door, but rather two front doors, one on each of these two cultures.

In June of 1991, George Beaver, retired superintendent of education for the Six Nations Reserve spoke to a meeting of the Brant County Branch, A.C.O., about the building. I was astonished to learn that the federal government, who, because of the imposed *Indian Act*, must take ultimate responsibility, refuses to do anything concrete to help restore and preserve *Chiefswood*.

The federal government, as I understand, is uncooperative on at least three counts. Foremost is refusal to give any financial help. Next is a denial that the building has architectural significance. We heritage types know that the built heritage can be preserved on either architectural or historical grounds, or both. It is plausible that *Chiefswood* could be given recognition on both grounds. One wonders if the federal government is backing off on financial grounds and simply creating a "lack of architectural merit" as an excuse for refusal of financing. The third point appears to be nasty, although, undoubtedly, the government can come up with some rationale as yet unknown to the writer. This third point is the refusal of the government to grant an income tax number that would enable the Six Nations committee working on it to receive tax-deductible contributions.

Mr. Blackburn M.P. has tackled the *Chiefswood* situation previously. Thus, he could have dismissed my appeal with a review of his previous efforts. However, he started over again as though he had not previously run into dead end obstacles. He sent copies of my letter to several responsible persons in government.

From the Hon. Tom Siddon, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, came a reference to my letter, acknowledging the "considerable historic significance of *Chiefswood* for Indian people, for Ontario, and for Canada as a whole" and stating "that there may be a strong case to be considered by appropriate agencies."

Mr. Siddon arranged for contacts with the Ontario Heritage Foundation, the Ontario Native Affairs Secretariat, and the National and Historic Parks and Sites Directorate "in support of the request for financial assistance."

The Hon. Elmer McKay, Minister of Public Works (Canada) wrote that *Chiefswood* "is not part of the real asset inventory of Public Works Canada, and, as such, is not eligible for appropriated funds from the Department for renovation."

One might reasonably expect the "real asset inventory" to grow rather than now be static and immutable for all time. Thus, in view of the many historical and architectural factors in *Chiefswood's* favor, it would seem we should work to get it put on the inventory and not simply bemoan the fact that it is not there now.

The house is variously described as:
"Ontario Classic"

"Gothic-Greek-Italian revival on the grand scale, with high ceilings and heavy interior walls"

"Bracketed Regency house"

"The only Indian mansion from pre-Confederation days that still exists"

"The 'capital' of Indian Canada"

"George Washington slept here" is an expression that Americans have overused to the point of ridicule on houses, taverns, coach-stops, etc., that Washington once came near. On the other hand, can we not make some sort of patriotic case out of

The remaining windows are simple six-over-six windows of the earlier pre-Confederation pattern.

It is a hipped-roof villa with bracketed cornice of minimal flamboyance. The intended belvedere, for which the framing exists, was never built.

The lower rooms all have large French doors to the gardens; sitting room and dining room are connected by four massive folding doors; the library has a Greek-style mantelpiece with cast iron grate and fender; broad, heavily panelled doors lead to a generous hall out of which rises a graceful walnut staircase. Much of the interior trim is walnut, evidently painted from the start. The master bedroom has a fireplace resembling the one in the library, but stoves were used to heat most of the house.

Within the last thirty years, the working drawings for *Chiefswood* were discovered. Dated 1856, they were unsigned and therefore not likely drawn by an architect.

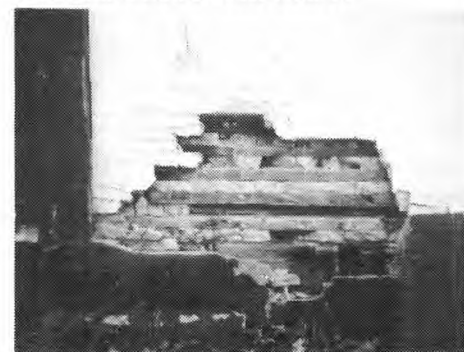
In those early days, the work of a mason

The sawmill plank construction is of special interest because of its rarity. It consists of one inch thick planks stacked on their flat sides. On the exterior, the edges of alternate planks are recessed about two inches behind the line of those above and below them. Presumably this was done to provide superior adherence for the stuccoed exterior.



Chiefswood south-east side
Michael Keefe

Unfortunately, there has never been a basement, with the result that there is some degree of rot for a short distance above grade (and presumably below). It would be advantageous to add a basement now, as this would give added room for ancillary functions as required by a heritage building as tourist attraction, and to provide better structural stabilization with heating and air conditioning to minimize further deterioration.



Chiefswood, structural detail showing sawmill plank construction and deterioration.
Michael Keefe



Chiefswood north-east side. Road facade
Michael Keefe

"King Edward VII visited here" (while he was Prince of Wales). Or "Arthur, Duke of Connaught, Governor-General of Canada visited here."

The building is a fine example of an early Victorian villa. It borrows elements from a variety of styles. The pediments over the main entrance doors are classical/renaissance. The main floor windows on the two fronts are French doors intended to give direct access from the rooms to the spacious grounds and perhaps to an intended or former verandah. The main doorways and the Ontario "suicide doors" above them are capped with ogival arches of Tudor shape, possibly planned as access to small balconies.

or carpenter in a community could often be traced in the designs he worked into the buildings. It would appear that the carpenter who worked on *Chiefswood* moulded the design to his liking and greatly improved on the drawings.

It's interesting to note that the roof framing had been prepared for a belvedere or cupola which never materialized. Apparently the carpenter, who obviously preferred the Greek influence nearly lost his way in this one detail. One can imagine the heated arguments in the attic of *Chiefswood*, long ago, between the determined carpenter, Chief Johnson, and perhaps the designer, before this feature, so often the crowning glory of an Italianate house, was abandoned.

June, 1991 correspondence from the Heritage Branch, Ministry of Cultural and Communication over the signature of John Carter is very positive. Suggestions in it are realistic. The tone is that *Chiefswood* will be substantially restored and reopened in the not-too-far future.

Michael Keefe

Several addresses of people who might be influential in helping to save and restore *Chiefswood* have turned up.

Letters to one or more of these cannot help but have some beneficial effect. Such letters are therefore solicited from readers of ACORN.

Several at the Ontario Heritage Foundation, 77 Bloor Street West, 2nd Floor, Toronto, Ontario, M7A 2R9

Mr. Richard Alway, Chairman

Mr. Bernard McCue,

First Nations Heritage Consultant

Architectural Planning Unit - (416) 965-4961

Property Restoration Unit - (416) 325-5033

Mr. C. Cameron, Director General

National Historic Parks and Sites Directorate

Terraces de la Chaudière

10 Wellington Street, Hull, Quebec, K1A 0H3

Mr. Paul Choquette, Director General (for technical advice)

Architectural and Engineering Services for Environment Canada

Public Works Canada

Block 220, Asticou Center, Cité des Jeunes Boulevard

Hull, Quebec, K1A 0H3

(819) 997-0335

Mr Mark Krasnick, Secretary

Ontario Native Affairs Secretariat

4th Floor, 720 Bay Street

Toronto, Ontario, M5G 2K1

Chief Wellington Staats

R.R. 1, Scotland, Ontario, N0E 1R0

Hon. Elmer McKay, Minister

Ministry of Public Works

Room 509-CB

House of Commons, Ottawa

K1A 0A6

Hon. Tom Siddon, Minister

Ministry of Indian Affairs and Northern Development

Room 121-EB

House of Commons, Ottawa

K1A 0A6

E. PAULINE JOHNSON

1861 - 1913

In this house "Chiefswood", erected about 1853, was born the Mohawk poetess Emily Pauline Johnson (Tekahionwake). Her father Chief G.H.M. Johnson, a greatly respected leader of the Six Nations, built "Chiefswood" for her English mother, a cousin of the well-known American novelist William Dean Howells. By her writing and dramatic recitals from her own works in Great Britain and throughout North America, Pauline made herself the voice of the Indian race in the English tongue. No book of poetry by a Canadian has out sold her collected verse "Flint and Feather".

Erected by the Ontario Archaeological and Historic Sites Board

ACO Fall 1991 Bus Tour

Although a relatively small party joined the ACO Fall 1991 bus tour to Collingwood/Owen Sound and places enroute, the event seems to have been enjoyed by those who managed to be part of it. The route chosen was not always direct but diversions were made to take in communities of interest as well as the scenery and some spectacular views. After leaving the sprawl of the Greater Toronto Wen the architecture and buildings of northern Peel, represented by polychromed brick as well as stone houses, first caught our attention.

A short diversion took us to Orangeville

by reorganization, the kind of mindless, bureaucratic intervention that continues to drag heritage generally down with it!) The winding road continued, with remnants of Fall colour in sheltered places, through the hamlet and past the mills of Glen Huron and back to the main track and the return of architecture on the approach down the escarpment to Collingwood. Our first stop was at Duntroon to enjoy the secluded sanctuary of the unlocked Anglican Church of the Redeemer, a small parish church built in 1881, the building and its bell-cot in polychromed brick, its solid oak pews inside



House c. 1840 possibly mud block; roughcast stucco finish. Note Venetian windows. In Sandhill (Town of Caledon), north Peel Region.

Peter John Stokes

to view not only the Courthouse - recently restored - but also the devastated grand main street, Broadway, now with gaping holes in its commercial frontage, once remarkable for its later nineteenth century grandeur as a turn-of-the-century postcard view confirms. It was then through a short section of the Hockley Valley and northwards again along the roller-coaster Airport Road through the Mulmur Hills, past ski-resorts not yet operational, although a touch of snow had greeted us near Mono Mills. At Banda the bus slowed down for our party to take a closer look at the charming Anglican Church there and later at the 1867 Clydebank Farm of the Carruthers family, a house of wooden "ashlar and quoins".

Then another side trip through the Village of Creemore, notable for its local brewery and the very creditable signage created, it would appear, by a particularly talented signpainter. (Creemore is one of the communities threatened with extinction

very much of that countryside.

Although the direct route to Collingwood is dramatic enough, even though there is no longer a hull a-building at the end of the wide main street, Hurontario, we took another round-about way out from Nottawa and across country to the west behind some



Christ Church, Banda c. 1880

Peter John Stokes

of the earlier ski chalets (neo-Cuckoo-Clock in many cases) to the crossroads of Banks on top of the escarpment again and back past the scenic rock caves for a splendid view of the town from this vantage point and a dramatic descent towards Georgian Bay.

The party booked into the Mariner Motel, a most comfortable hostelry, and enjoyed a picnic lunch prepared by Alice King Sculthorpe, tour coordinator, in the shelter of the motel's dining room, as the wind had



Clydebank Farm 1867
Peter John Stokes

a chill about it. Then two walking tours, along Minnesota Street in the east end of the town, where Dr. and Mrs. Harvie so kindly let us visit their c.1861 "sawmill plank" house. Here several of our party made those seemingly inevitable connections renewing old friendships. A second walk concentrated on the fine houses along Third Street in the west end, the "flower-pot" houses with potted sunflower ornament, a builder's signature, in the gable, and the splendors of the Telfer family, once wealthy biscuit manufacturers. Side trips followed along neighbouring streets and the commercial section of Hurontario to view Collingwood's 1914 marble Post Office, a Beaux Arts splendour, by the local architect Philip Palin and supposedly modelled on a Cuban government building in Havana, and the earlier (1889) Richardsonian Romanesque (Revival) Town Hall. Collingwood, now with an attractively landscaped main street is starting to show the results of discipline in signage, the result of a by-law introduced a few years ago. But yet another proposal for the shipyard has been put forward, not fully endorsed locally, but still it is hoped to see the preservation of the grand shipyard buildings in the functional tradition. The day was capped by an excellent dinner at Christopher's in a turn-of-the-century doctor's house of pink sandstone and Adamesque detail plus other eclecticism; Eleanor Hughes, our guest and representing Collingwood, presented our group with the Town pin as a memento of our visit.

After a well-earned sleep it was off after breakfast towards Owen Sound through

Thornbury and, with a brief stop to stock up on local apples, divinely fresh and juicy, we continued to Meaford. There, passing the Town Hall and Opera House, to Christ Church where the church was open, the choir practising for the service to follow, and our party was able to enjoy the peace and sanctity of that building and its remarkable microcosm of mediaeval stained glass saved from English churches bombed in World War II.

Our next stop was Owen Sound and the Old Courthouse where a recent study by



Detail of Clydebank executed in wood.
Peter John Stokes

ACO Huron County member Chris Borgal has provided a program for the continued use of the building as a local arts centre. Our guide was Daphne Johnson of Owen Sound LACAC. Two brief walks followed, in the older area near the Courthouse and then along a residential street of handsome late nineteenth and early twentieth century



Stone house c. 1850 with neo-Classic features above Duntroon.
Peter John Stokes

houses to the old mill dam where coho salmon were trying to jump up the cascade to reach the upper waters, purposely thwarted in their ascent because the Sydenham River could not support the growing fishery.

Lunch was in the converted Williamsford Mill on the Garafraxa Road, Highway 6, south of Owen Sound. This was once a water-powered feed mill, the penstock now operating a low-head electrical generator, feeding its surplus into the Ontario Hydro grid.

It was then across country again back to Highway 10, the Sydenham Road, through Markdale, Flesherton and turning into Dundalk with its handsome pair of grain elevators straddling the CPR Toronto/Owen Sound track. Back to Highway 10 we passed through Shelburne, Ontario's fiddlers' capital, past its school converted to an arts centre, and skirting Orangeville via back roads including Dixie towards the inexorable suburbia of Brampton and past the extraordinary monument of the new Church of Christ of the Latter Day Saints by Allward and Gouinlock. That was the last shock before a return to normalcy, and we hope looking forward to the next bus trip of the ACO. All the way Carlos was considerate,



Owen Sound c. 1900. A Queen Anne Revival plus Romanesque Revival
Peter John Stokes

patient and jovial as he drove our Penetang-Midland coach along the highways, byways and back ways of our tour.

Those along were asked for any suggestions for future ACO Tours and here are the results. Though we have been on some of these routes before, we could always try them again. Just for good measure we added another which might intrigue you. Four chose Eastern Ontario (unless the one choice of Eastern Townships meant the Loyalist area of Southern Quebec): this is a trip better for a long weekend. Then came two for Stratford/St. Marys, two for Galt / Guelph / Elora which could be combined with another for Woodstock/Waterloo, especially if a third day was included. Another was for

Prince Edward County, which would be a welcome repeat, and similarly for the Niagara Peninsula (St. Catharines/Welland and presumably places like Niagara-on-the-Lake). Two other wider shots were Arnprior/Renfrew and Southampton/Harriston/Hanover (and possibly up into the Bruce Peninsula). We add "A Return to Roots" - trip or trips to Upstate New York and the Hudson and Mohawk Valleys.

'Til next time ----!

Peter John Stokes

Around & About

QUEEN'S LIBRARY

We wonder if the Prince of Wales was informed about the imminent fate of a number of residential structures on the Queen's University campus while he was in Kingston last month? University students were approached as to the location and nature of the controversial buildings. One student responded by suggesting that the buildings were "just row housing - therefore not heritage buildings!"

Illustrated here is the infamous row house at the corner of Union and Alfred Streets; a structure designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, and the recipient of grants from the Province for restoration work. Out of the five finalist library proposals on this site only one required demolition of the heritage buildings - the winning scheme. After much public protest Queen's University has now promised to relocate the designated building - a questionable practice.



House to be demolished for Queen's Library.

Gilles Miramontes

However the row house is only the iceberg's tip, as it appears that most of the residential buildings will be cleared away on Alfred Street north of Union.

It seems rather ironic that a repository of fine residential structures such as these, in their setting, must be destroyed to make room for an expanding repository of another sort.

Queen's University - a centre of higher learning? We are not amused.

Gilles Miramontes



House to be demolished for the new Queen's University Library.

Gilles Miramontes



Union and Alfred streets. These designated row houses are to be moved by Queen's University.

Gilles Miramontes



House to be demolished for Queen's Library.

Gilles Miramontes

AJAX-PICKERING

The curious anomaly of the Town of Ajax, whose original nucleus was the wartime munitions plant and its workers' housing which subsequently progressed into a new community and served in the early post war years as the temporary campus of the University of Toronto's Engineering and Architecture Schools, has posed some trying dilemmas on both its politicians and municipal staff, not to mention the problems of local citizens in the tragic neglect of the one historic place within its artificial bounds.

We speak of the old village of Pickering tucked away on its western boundary, the historic centre on Kingston Road of the original Township of Pickering within the former County of Ontario, now part of the Regional Municipality of Durham. Municipal reorganization is not the only culprit: the provincial Ministry of Transportation in its improvements of Highway 2, the Kingston Road, to serve as a commuter corridor, re-aligned the gentle curve past Duffin's Creek through the old commercial centre of the village thus cutting it off from the surviving older residential section to the east, still a recognizable and rewarding interlude to the inexorable and all too self-effacing suburbia of late twentieth century Southern Ontario.

Recognizing some of the demands and pressures on this older section the Town of Ajax did see fit to explore the problem although so far it seems to be ignoring the solutions put forward for its conservation. A Land Use Study was made in 1990 accompanied by a Heritage Study promoted by Ajax LACAC. This was followed by a Marketing Study to determine what demands for changes to the predominantly residential use of the east end of the old village might be justified. The general thrust seemed to be to permit uses such as offices to infiltrate the residential area, preferably at the same time preserving its essential residential character, not an easy task to address, nor a compromise readily

acceptable. The discipline possible under the Ontario Heritage Act, it was suggested, might well be invoked.

What have been the results? First no positive action by the municipality in adequate measures to protect the character of old Pickering village, particularly its eastern residential section. Secondly the demolition of two older houses and the substitution of a modern office, deemed by some to be out of scale and a travesty of so-called traditional design, yet this was in a residential zone with the express allowance of such a commercial use. Another similar case has just been considered, although this does involve the retention of an excellent c. 1910 Edwardian gambrel-roofed house, but more of this in a succeeding issue.

In the meantime it is hoped that Ajax will pursue a more positive course of action to safeguard the character of old Pickering Village, for it is its sole collective historical/architectural asset.

It appears a reconstituted Durham Region Branch of the ACO is very much needed too.

Peter John Stokes

HISTORIC SITES CRUMBLING

The cash squeeze is threatening many of Canada's 110 forts, monuments, canals, battlefields and other historic sites.

"Nearly 40 percent of historic buildings are listed in poor condition, including the reconstructed fort at Louisbourg, N.S., where wood is rotting from water damage."

"Ottawa has promised its environmental Green Plan will provide new cash for historic sites."

The walls of three buildings in Fort George, Niagara-on-the-Lake are rotting. "The blockhouse housing public exhibits may be closed next summer. Repairs will cost \$1.5 million but the money may not be available for five years."

*From The
Kitchener-Waterloo Record*

Coming Events

GASLIGHTING IN TORONTO

Discover the warmth and charm of gaslight as the Toronto Historical Board presents - "Between the Dark and Daylight": Domestic Gaslighting in Toronto, 1841 to 1920 - a new exhibit opening at Spadina on October 2, 1991 and continuing until September 30, 1992.

This unique exhibit traces the development of domestic gaslighting in Toronto

through an exceptional collection of artifacts and photographs. Visitors can marvel at the technological and artistic beauty of gaslighting through a display of gas fixtures and glass shades. Guests can also view restored and functioning gas fixtures throughout Spadina as part of the regular guided tour.

The exhibit is particularly pertinent to Spadina - the 1866 estate of James Austin and his family. James Austin was elected Director of The Consumers' Gas Company of Toronto in 1859 and retired as its president in 1897. James' son Albert also went on to hold the office of president from 1912 to 1934.

ACO MEETINGS 1992

January 11	Executive Committee	10:30 a.m.
February 8	Executive Committee	10:30 a.m.
	Council	1:30 p.m.
March 14	Executive Committee	10:30 a.m.
April 24/25	Conference on Vernacular Architecture - Brantford	
April 25/26	ACO Annual General Meeting - Brantford	
May 9	Executive Committee	10:30 a.m.
June 13	Executive Committee	10:30 a.m.
	Council	1:30 p.m.
July 11	Executive Committee	10:30 a.m.
August 8	Executive Committee	10:30 a.m.
Sept. 12	Executive Committee	10:30 a.m.
	Council	1:30 p.m.
October 10	Executive Committee	10:30 a.m.
Nov. 14	Executive Committee	10:30 a.m.
	Council	1:30 p.m.
Dec. 12	Executive Committee	10:30 a.m.

Meetings are on Saturdays in the Haworth Room, Ontario Heritage Centre (exceptions noted above)

Book Reviews

CANADIAN HOUSING IN WOOD: AN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

By Maurice J. Clayton, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, 1990. 127 pages, ring-bound.

Canadian Housing in Wood is sub-titled "An Historical Perspective", however it is really an overview of the entire Canadian heritage of wooden houses. As such, it does not offer an in-depth study of any particular mode of wooden construction, but rather a short look at a number of techniques that were in use in different parts of the country at different times.

The author uses a roughly chronological order, beginning with the Aboriginal peoples. These are covered west to east, south to north, so that the book opens with the building techniques of the west coast Indians, whose methods were generally more complex than those of the other original people. These methods are illustrated with line diagrams as well as pictures, an approach that is used for all sections of the book.

The author then shifts to the European settlers, starting with the Vikings as evidenced by the settlement at L'Anse aux Meadows in Newfoundland. While this is arguably a sod construction, it does utilize a wood frame. Its inclusion in this book allows the author an opportunity to tie the Viking history into the history of England and France, the sources of many of the building techniques discussed in the rest of the book.

These range from the many varieties of log construction, through timber framing, balloon framing, and a variety of specialized regional methods, to the platform framing techniques that dominate the home construction industry today. Each technique covered is detailed with drawings and photos, and the origins of each are explored.

This book provides a good overview of the wood construction methods that have historically been used throughout Canada. In doing so, it covers several techniques that are not likely familiar to most people. As an overview book, of course, it does not delve deeply into any of the methods discussed; this is the province of more specialized works. Instead, this book does what it sets out to do, and the line drawings alone convey a great deal of information.

Bob Rowell

Insulated 1800 Wooden Door

The front door of Homewood, the 1800 Solomon Jones House near Maitland, Ontario, was deteriorating after almost two centuries and recently required conservation. This work was entrusted to William Hooper Inc. of R.R. 4 Spencerville, Ontario. Bill Hooper, principal of the firm, described to us the unusual construction of this remarkable piece of joinery.

The door, some two inches thick, was of special construction, a double panel with air space between, literally an insulated wooden assembly which, furthermore, differed in design on the two faces. The essential construction was a carcass-moulded form, that is with the moulding run on the carcass or framework of the assembly rather than a separate moulding inserted around the recessed edge against the panel face, a late eighteenth and very early nineteenth century detail in Ontario. The door was relatively wide, but not inordinately high, both sides divided into three panels in width, but the outside a nine-panel design with long lower panel, a wide lock rail, a slightly taller centre panel separated from the short top panel by an intermediate cross rail. Inside the design differed: here a six-panel form was created by combining the two upper panels with intermediate cross rail made thinner to allow the long upper panel to sail by. (These narrower-than-normal panels are somewhat reminiscent of wide tavern doors, where this added strength and perhaps resisted abuse better).

What is special is that the rails and stiles were ploughed out for double grooves, 3/8" wide with a 1/2" wide separation, the tongues likewise doubled in line with the grooves. Extending a tongue or tenon in line with the groove is the common fabrication practice in solid wood carcass joinery and, in the case of doors or panelling, the tenons let into mortices in the rails and usually wedged and/or pinned into place, the panels left to "float" in the grooves to accommodate seasonal shrinkage and swelling, particularly across the grain. Here the double tenons were wedged in place as is the common practice and necessitated, to help preserve as much of the original door as possible for their release posed the problem of serious damage, the removal of the carcass mouldings to allow the deteriorated panels to be replaced by new matching material. Incidentally these panels were 3/8" thick without the bevelling or fielding (i.e., raised centres) often found. After replacement of

the panels new moulds were glued to the carcass to restore the original appearance.

To accommodate the differences in panel arrangement the upper or intermediate cross rail was made to house only the exterior panels and was only 1/2" deeper than the internal recess plus the panel thickness so that the full length interior panel could pass by.

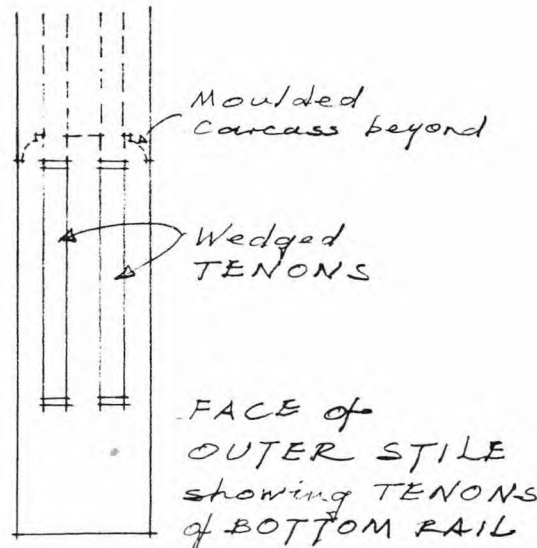
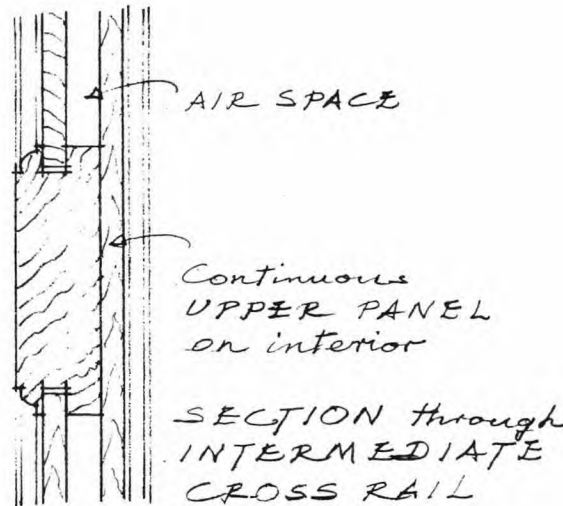
An insulated wooden door almost two centuries old - how would their modern metal counterparts fare after all that time, let alone perform as efficiently?

Homewood is operated by the Grenville County Historical Society. Located a short distance east of Maitland on the north side of Highway 2 (accessible from 401 via the Maitland Road or if you are driving from the east via Edward Street into Prescott and westwards), the house is open during the summer season to visitors.

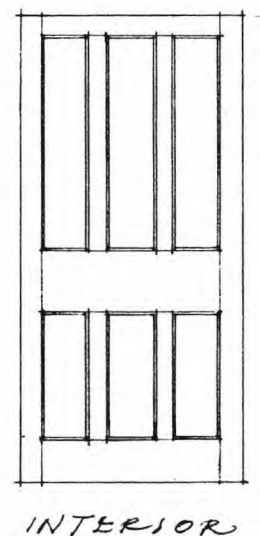
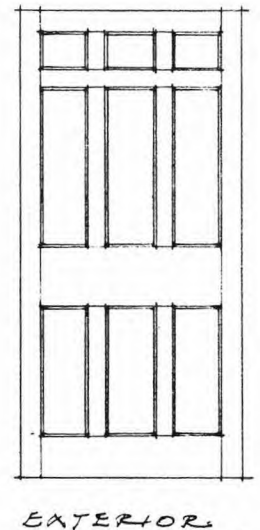
(For further references see *The Ancestral Roof* by Marion MacRae and Anthony Adamson).

Peter John Stokes

INSULATED WOODEN ENTRANCE DOOR
to HOMEWOOD 1800,
The SOLOMON JONES HOUSE, Near MAITLAND, Ontario

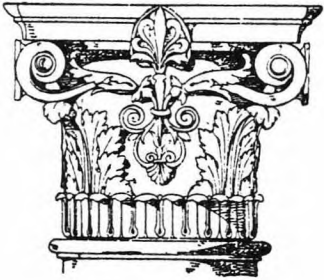


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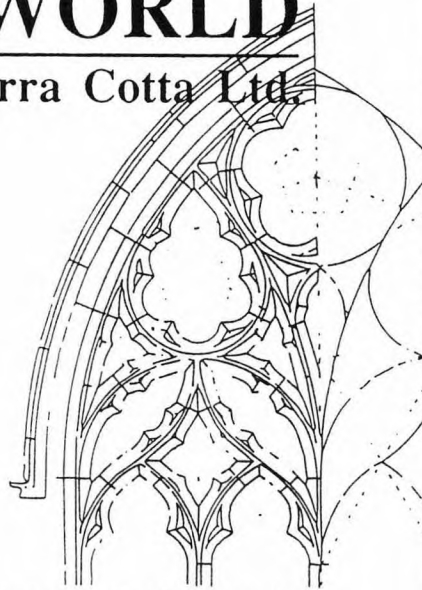
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